

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (mark-up)

A content distribution system ~~200~~—distributes a content key and content use conditions for controlling a content use in a client apparatus ~~110~~ to the client apparatus ~~110~~, via a communication channel ~~130~~, from either a multicast distribution server ~~122~~ or a unicast distribution server ~~123~~. A content distribution management server ~~121~~ determines by which distribution ~~methods~~ method to send ~~a~~ the content key and content use conditions of each content according to an attribute of the content (a compression format, a compression ratio, a content holder, and the like). An encrypted content distribution server ~~124~~ distributes only encrypted content whose content key and content use conditions are to be distributed by the unicast, and the multicast distribution server ~~122~~ distributes encrypted content whose content key and content use conditions are superimposed by the multicast.